

City 'Mother Of Year,' Coed Slain

By JEFF MORGAN

A city shocked by the bizarre strangling of Oakland's 1963 Mother of the Year and her beautiful 18-year-old daughter waited today.

It waited for police to come up with the first solid clue to the identity of the murderer.

It waited and wondered. Why?

Why were Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Martin, 43, a prominent Presbyterian church woman, and her daughter, Carolyn, murdered in their fashionable Crocker Highlands home?

Their bodies, both bound, side by side, were found late yesterday by another daughter, Susan, 16.

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Both victims were face down in the living room of the house 50 feet from the Piedmont city line.

There was no sign of a forced entry.

Were they the victims of a senseless, random slaying by a depraved psychopath?

Frightened residents wonder if he will strike again.

HUSBAND STUNNED

The dead woman's husband, Dr. Frank H. Martin, an osteopath, learned of the tragedy when he returned last night to his home at 1140 Ashmount Ave.

Police officers met him as he drove his car into the garage next to his house.

"Something has happened," a sergeant said. Then Dr. Martin was left alone with his 16-year-old daughter, Susan, who told him what happened.

Dr. Martin said today he has returned to work in his Latham Square Building office.

"We'll keep going," he said. "That's all we can do, keep going."

Susan discovered the bodies when she returned home from Oakland High School about 5:30 p.m.

The family's pet mongrel Pekingese, TD, was in the room with the bodies.

VICTIMS BOUND

Both victims were trussed up, Mrs. Martin with an electrical extension cord ripped from a nearby lamp and Carolyn with two silk stockings knotted together.

Both had apparently been strangled. Mrs. Martin had been struck on the head, evidently by a heavy ash tray which was found shattered nearby.

Police said Carolyn had apparently been raped.

Homicide Lt. James Bratton said the two women had probably surprised an intruder yesterday morning when they brought the dog, TD, home from an SPCA inoculation clinic.

The mother's hands had been bound tightly with the electric cord, which was looped around the big toe of her right foot and then tied around her neck.

The daughter's right foot was held by a loose loop made from the stockings which passed from her big toe to her neck.

Bratton announced that 14 investigators have been assigned to the case. While criminalist John Davis conducted laboratory examinations of the bodies, the cord and the stockings, fin-

Wife and Daughter Killed by Mystery Strangler

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gerprint experts combed the house.

Officers interviewed neighbors, delivery men, service workers — anyone who might have been in the neighborhood when the murder was committed.

So far they have come up with no leads.

Housewives in the quiet, upper-middle-class neighborhood openly expressed their fear today.

"Something like this makes you wary of strangers," Mrs. H. E. Allen, the Martins' next-door neighbor, told a reporter through a chain-latched door. "We feel a great deal of apprehension."

Mrs. Robert Kieran, whose home at 1090 Ardmore Ave. overlooks the Martins' back yard, said many of the wives and mothers in the neighborhood are alone during the day.

"When something like this happens in broad daylight . . . well, we're all worried."

"I've become very jumpy," admitted Mrs. H. G. Lorentzen of 1121 Ashmount Ave. "Every time I hear a noise I'm frightened."

Mrs. Martin and the girl were last seen alive about 9:55 a.m. at the SPCA shelter on Baldwin Street near the Metropolitan Oakland International Airport.

Shortly after Dr. Martin drove Susan to school on his way to the office, the two women took TD to the shelter for a distemper shot.

Police found a check stub in Mrs. Martin's purse dated Jan. 22 and made out the the SPCA for \$6.

Bratton theorized that the two returned home and found an intruder who attacked them. Although the blow on Mrs. Martin's head was probably not fatal, he said, it could have left her unconscious.

Mrs. Martin was fully clothed when she was found, except for her right shoe, which had been removed. Both of Carolyn's

shoes had been taken off, and her blouse and stretch pants had been ripped off.

Susan discovered the bodies after she was dropped off at her house by her boyfriend, Grant Thomas, of 807 Trestle Glen Road. She ran to the telephone and called the operator. "I think my mother and sister are dead," she said.

While police were at the house last night, Carolyn's boyfriend, Jerome Circo, 19, of Antioch, called and asked for the girl.

When told what had happened, he rushed to the home from San Leandro, where he was staying with relatives.

He said Carolyn had come home from Chico state College, where she is a sophomore. Tuesday night. Police found her suitcases partially unpacked in her bedroom.

Circo said Carolyn had come home to spend the midwinter semester break with her family.

Neighbors told police they saw no one enter or leave the house during the day.

Bratton said nothing was stolen from the house. Both purses had

money in them, he explained, and nothing outside of the living room had been disturbed.

Mrs. Martin was nominated for the Oakland Junior Chamber of Commerce's Mother of the Year award by the Oakland Council of United Church Women.

She received the honor May 12 during ceremonies at the Morcom Amphitheater of Roses.

The slender, brown-eyed brunette told the audience at the presentation she believed her job was to "do just as much as I can in the place I am, to be informed and to give my money to support my principles."

Dr. Martin, a prominent physician who has practiced in Oakland for several years, is the former president of the Oakland Exchange Club and served as honorary president of the Bay Area Academy of Applied Osteopathy.

He and Mrs. Martin were married here in 1943.